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# LETTER DATED 25 MAY 1999 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF TAJIKISTAN TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

On the instructions of my Government, I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of a statement by the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan of 25 May 1999 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Rashid ALIMOV
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of
the Republic of Tajikistan
to the United Nations

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Annex

Statement issued by the Government of Tajikistan on 25 May 1999

[Original: Russian]

From the day Tajikistan attained independence, its people have lived in the hope of building a new and just society based on lasting peace, economic prosperity and social protection for all segments of the population - a society in which all citizens would be guaranteed a life with dignity marked by respect and pride in their country.

The Tajik people, which is fully acquainted with the horrors of civil war, found the internal strength and courage to stop the bloodshed when it found itself on the brink of an abyss in which Tajikistan could have no future - only chaos, self-destruction and the vanishing of the Tajik State from the map.

Now that Tajiks have fully realized that we are one people and one country and that through this unity we symbolize the renewed society of an independent, sovereign and democratic Tajikistan, they await concrete steps and actions from the Government and the former United Tajik Opposition (UTO) which will truly embody all the hopes and aspirations of the Tajik people, chief among which are peace and the prosperity of their homeland.

Under the direct leadership of President Emomali Sharipovich Rakhmonov, the Government of Tajikistan, as of 16 November 1992, proclaimed the main doctrine of its domestic and State policy: the achievement of comprehensive peace and national harmony on Tajik soil and the stable development of society and the State. The fruit of this policy was the signing in Moscow on 27 June 1997 of the General Agreement on the Establishment of Peace and National Accord in Tajikistan.

Despite all the complications that stood in the way of the peace process, it must be acknowledged that in record time, thanks to the efforts, initiative and direct participation of the President, a major effort was made and continues to be made to implement fully the General Agreement and reform the Government. Parliamentary decrees on amnesty have been enacted; all refugees and displaced persons have returned to their homes and are actively participating in the work of transforming the country; work on amending and expanding the Constitution is being completed, providing for the establishment of a permanent functioning bicameral parliament, despite all the financial and economic difficulties; legislation on political parties and social movements has been passed; UTO armed formations are being reintegrated in the country's armed forces; and many other steps are being taken.

The Government greatly appreciates the role the former United Tajik Opposition has played in the establishment of peace and the development of the peace process in Tajikistan.

At the same time, the Government considers unacceptable the methods recently employed by the UTO representatives on the National Reconciliation

Commission consisting of demands that are, as a rule, unwarranted and take the form of ultimatums. In the first place, they run counter not only to the underlying principles and provisions of the General Agreement but also to the obligation taken on by the parties to refrain from accusing each other in public. Secondly, they lead the Tajik people away from constructive pursuits and towards demagogic discussions that are highly dangerous to the peace process, with the UTO focusing on the securing of posts and the "distribution of portfolios".

The Government was led to this conclusion by the actions of the UTO leadership and, above all, of the Chairman of the National Reconciliation Commission after thoroughly analysing their many recent statements, including the statement given by Mr. Nuri immediately after his return to Dushanbe from Iran, in which the Government was accused of delaying the settlement of a series of military and political issues. However, it should be noted that Mr. Nuri was himself absent from Tajikistan for more than two months in the past year alone, virtually bringing the work of the Commission to a standstill. While calling for the legalization of parties and the information media, the UTO has not fully honoured all the commitments it made on military questions, which also goes against the provisions of the General Agreement. Fulfilling its obligations, the Government has removed roadblocks, while in Darband, Tavildara and several other districts armed formations under UTO command remain active and continue to control the roads. To date, UTO troops have not been integrated or deployed in agreed locations, and a large quantity of weapons is not to be found in the storage places specified in the agreements.

While there are many more such examples, the Government considers it necessary to refrain from mutual recriminations and the use of ultimatums.

Being in strict compliance with the provisions of the General Agreement and with the obligations it has assumed, the Government of Tajikistan has repeatedly drawn the attention of the UTO representatives on the National Reconciliation Commission to the need for a comprehensive approach to the problems which do in fact arise in the process of implementing the peace agreement owing to their newness and complexity.

On the basis of the foregoing, the Government states the following:

- We are in favour of speeding up the peace process in all areas defined in the General Agreement, but that process must proceed on the basis of strict compliance with all norms of the Constitution of the Republic;

- We are in favour of elections in due course, which means that the referendum on amending the Constitution should be held soon;

- We advocate the free will of the people, which means the supremacy of opinions expressed through a referendum and not through the dictatorship of any party or ideology.

The Government of Tajikistan calls upon all political parties and movements in Tajikistan, international organizations and countries-guarantors to display utmost understanding and show the utmost support for the peace process in Tajikistan.

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